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# Current Issues Only

October 2004

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### Henderson and Other USG Libraries Initiate New Resource Sharing Service

The libraries of the institutions in the University System of Georgia (USG) have implemented an automated system that gives authorized users quick and easy access to more than four million titles. Called **GIL Express**, the new system allows USG faculty, staff and students to make online or in-person requests for any of the items contained in the general collections of 35 libraries throughout the state. According to GIL Steering Committee Chair W. Bede Mitchell, the system features an easy-to-use interface, immediate patron validation and automatic tracking of materials. Most requested materials are delivered within three days.

"GIL Express eliminates barriers to information access, making every book in the entire USG library system accessible to every library patron," said Mitchell, who is the dean of the Zach Henderson Library at Georgia Southern University. "This is particularly relevant for distance learners and mobile library patrons who can pick up items from any library and return them to any library."

GIL Express is the most recent evolution of GALILEO Interconnected Libraries (GIL), which is the second phase of the University System's GALILEO initiative. GALILEO - which stands for Georgia Library Learning Online - is a World Wide Web-based virtual library that provides access to multiple information resources. The community of more than 2,000 GALILEO institutions includes the USG, K-12 schools, public libraries, adult technical institutes and colleges, and a group of private academic colleges and universities. Implemented in September, GIL Express replaced the USG borrowing card that used to be required for faculty, staff and students who wanted materials from a USG library other than the one at their home institution.

Through the local campuses' online catalogs, patrons have access to the Universal Catalog, which combines the individual collections of the libraries at the 34 USG institutions and the Gwinnett University Center. The Universal Catalog contains over 4.3 millions titles, including 2.6 million titles that are held by only one library in the USG.

"GIL Express and the universal catalog leverage unique resources by extending their use throughout the University System of Georgia," Mitchell said. "This is very important at times when book budgets are slim.

"Contrary to the popular myths that everything is free and on the Internet and that people don't read anymore, USG patrons had over 1.5 million circulation transactions in FY '04."

GIL Express is the result of the USG library faculty and staff's dedication to "bricks and clicks" service. This means complementing the services available through the on-campus library locations with the Internet.

"In the past, our faculty and graduate students would often have to drive to other USG libraries to get access to the type of research collections they needed," said Sherrida Crawford of Valdosta State University. "Now, with just a few mouse clicks, they have these books in their hands in only two or three days."

"This is the product of years of hard work on the part of the USG libraries' faculty and staff," said the University of Georgia's Claire Colombo, who is the chair of the GIL Express Task Force. "We've had a vision that our patrons would be able to quickly and easily borrow material from across the system's libraries. GIL Express is the realization of that cooperative effort."

For more information on GIL Express and the GIL Universal Catalog, visit <http://gil.usg.edu>.

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### October 12 Celebration of Health Education Network Award

The Coalition of Regional and Academic Libraries [invites you to a reception](#) as Statesboro Regional Library, Magnolia Coastlands Area Health Education Center (AHEC), and Zach S. Henderson Library receives the prestigious NCLIS Blue Ribbon Consumer Health Information Recognition Award for Libraries. [See details.](#)



### Tickets on Sale for November 12 Fund Raising Musical "We'll Meet Again"

Organized by Friends of the Zach S. Henderson Library, "We'll Meet Again" commemorates in words and song the contributions of the men and women who made up what newsman Tom Brokaw has called "The Greatest Generation." The show will take place in the Emma Kelly Theater of the Averitt Center for the Arts. See [more information and how to purchase tickets](#) for the benefit.

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## **GALILEO Updates**

Karen Minton, of the Georgia Library Learning Online ([GALILEO](#)) Library and Customer Information Services Department, announces two GALILEO updates:

**1. Change in EBSCOhost Access to ERIC Documents** - Effective October 1, 2004 a modification will be made to the ERIC database offered via EBSCOhost. The change to the EBSCOhost offering of ERIC is due to the closing of the EDRS (ERIC Document Reproduction Service/E\*Subscribe) on-demand and subscription-based document delivery service, E\*Subscribe, as of September 30, 2004. Over 107,000 full-text non-journal documents (issued 1993-2004), which historically have been available through E\*Subscribe, will be freely available via the new ERIC website, <http://eric.ed.gov>.

EBSCO is working with ERIC to ensure that EBSCOhost users accessing the ERIC database will also have access to these documents via links.

EBSCO last received an update to the database in July 2004. They expect the next update to be delivered in December 2004, after which they expect to receive updates on a monthly basis. In December 2004, ERIC will also begin adding new bibliographic records and full-text journal and non-journal resources published in 2004. ERIC will continue to provide access to the thesaurus data, and EBSCO will continue to make this data available through its ERIC offering.

**2. Discontinuation of GALILEO's Internet Resources Guide** - A recent study of the condition and usage of the GALILEO Internet Resources has resulted in the GALILEO steering committee's decision that presentation and maintenance of the collection be discontinued. Quality Internet resource collections should be updated continually using active collection development practices, but staffing constraints have made it difficult to keep the GALILEO collection up to date. Alternatives available to GALILEO users include the web directories maintained by SIRS in the SKS WebSelect and Discoverer WebFind products and by Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Another source for reviewed web sites includes the Internet resource collections available through GALILEO institutions' web pages. ProQuest/SIRS has indicated they will enhance content areas of SKS WebSelect, currently available to all GALILEO users, at our request. If you find subjects not represented there, please contact GALILEO and we will communicate your suggestions to them.

The Internet Resources pages will remain in production until January 1, 2005 so that users may bookmark their favorite sites contained in the directory. A note has been added to the main page notifying users that the resource is no longer being maintained. Links to Internet Resource sections within the GALILEO menus will be redirected to SKS WebSelect until January 1, and then will be removed from the database menus.

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## **Electronic Theses and Dissertations Replacing Paper**

Like more than one hundred universities in the United States, Georgia Southern University's Graduate School is moving toward a system in which theses and dissertations are published in electronic format only and are available on the Web. Several graduate students have already submitted their papers in digital form. Electronic theses and dissertations have a number of advantages over the old paper format in addition to wide accessibility, including richer content which allows high-resolution images, video and audio clips, and the embedding of some databases. Henderson Library's Dr. Sonya Shepherd is providing help to those graduate students who may not be proficient in the electronic formatting demanded by this new dispensation, and the Center for Excellence in Teaching has classes especially for them. Already, a few

theses (and one dissertation) are available not on shelves but through the work's online bibliographic record; each of the catalog records now includes a short abstract and index terms. A list can be obtained by simply searching "ETD Georgia Southern" as a keyword string. See an [example of an ETD](#).

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### **New Approval Plan Location**

The Collection and Resource Services Department has been relocated to Building 803 on Fair Road, the former home of the School of Nursing, for the duration of the project to expand and renovate Henderson Library. As part of that relocation, the books received on the approval plan for possible purchase may now be reviewed by interested faculty members at Collection and Resource Services' new home.

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### **Summary of Henderson Library Achievements 1999-2004**

See a [summary of our achievements](#) from 1999-2004.

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*Last updated 10/1/04.*